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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 17 | Humidity 43% Partly cloudy. Misty morning Sensex 58,142 | Nifty 17,352 | Gold 49,370 | Silver 62,742 | Dollar 75.32 | Euro 85.51 | GBP 102.00

Most sidewalks in Bengaluru are yet to be made disabled-friendly. Let alone smart pedestrian infrastructure, govt depts concerned remain inaccessible, say citizens

PATH, MY FOOT!

Majority of pavements lack tactile guidance

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Uneven and encroached footpaths, missing ramps, lack of tactile guidance, inaccessible pedestrian signals and splintered pavement tiles: sound familiar?

Well, it may not be wrong to say not a single footpath in Bengaluru is disabled-friendly.

It appears as though the IT city has turned a blind eye to an entire community with public spaces unable to furnish barrier-free access. Even with the Smart City work in full swing, roads and footpaths remain inaccessible to many.

"In a city where senior citizens cannot walk on the pavements, one can imagine the plight of citizens with disabilities. My husband is wheelchair bound; moving around in the city with him is a nightmare. Footpaths are occupied by street vendors, have broken tiles and often are concretised around the trees, making the pavements inaccessible to those with locomotion disabilities," said Rajeshwari Vishal Khandappanavar, a resident of North Bengaluru.

Lack of priority parking for wheelchairs is another factor rendering the city inaccessible.

"Majority of places do not have wheelchair parking facilities. Wherever we have this facility, it is not wide enough. Moreover, these spots are not marked well. Even the Metro parking spaces are not disabled-friendly," said Khandappanavar.

"There have been instances when I missed my bus stop... I landed at unfamiliar places and sustained injuries..."

– Nibin Mathews (visually impaired)

Nibin Mathews, a resident of South Bengaluru, suffering from visual impairment, is in agreement. According to Mathews, there are standard guidelines in place for infrastructure facilities, especially for the differently abled.

"I have injured myself many times walking on the footpath due to trees and electric poles. There are many dips I need to navigate through; the dips, in some spots, are not just a few inches but metres deep. There is a standard guideline to make footpaths for persons with disabilities, however, it is not being followed in Bengaluru. I have not come across a single footpath in the city with ramps," said Mathews.

Majority of the pavements lack tactile guidance making navigation difficult for the visually impaired, he explained: "Tactile guidance should be available at all footpaths. There have been instances when I missed my bus stop and had to walk back. Because the footpaths did not have tactile guidance, I landed at unfamiliar places

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Virtual graduates

Graduation ceremonies moved online, downsized or indefinitely postponed post pandemic

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Students from colleges across Bengaluru are upset that they are missing out on the classic graduation experience thanks to covid-19. Since the pandemic, many graduation ceremonies have been moved online, downsized or indefinitely postponed.

"I think Omicron came at the worst possible time because we were all really looking forward to graduation. For us, it's a milestone. I know people who are first generation graduates in their families; their families were really looking forward to it. Colleges are really downplaying how important this is to most students. I think they should be a little more considerate and postpone it to the near future," said Sanjana, who completed a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication earlier this year.

Many students who finished their studies in the summer of 2020 are yet to experience formal graduation. While many colleges have been conducting online ceremonies, students are not satisfied; it simply isn't the same, according to them.

"It's definitely not the same. I remember our seniors posting pictures of their graduation. Now, we're missing out. It's really saddening to sit at home and watch your own graduation. We spent half of our college at home which is why this was supposed to be some sort of a consolation but even that is being taken away from us, which is why it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Food for the soul

Catch Antaranga's new play Project Nagna. This play is being performed as a part of the Nataka Bengaluru Theatre festival. The play is a translation of a famous English play, PROJECT S.T.R.I.P. written by well-known playwright Ram Ganesh Kamatam. Kamatam's play is an absorbing attempt to portray the dilemma between development and the plight of the people affected by it. **Where: Kalagrama, Mallathahalli**
When: Feb 19, 7 pm;
Tickets: Rs 70, bookmyshow.com

02 Art talk

Mumbai-based Todywalla Auctions, the renowned auctioneers of coins and paper money, are expanding into classical Indian art with their debut auction comprising of Indian miniature paintings, bronze and stone sculptures and wood works. Be there for the talk by S Murugan, an art collector and scholar on South Indian Art.
Where: Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Domlur; When: Feb 16 – 18
Contact: 9820213620, malcolmft@hotmail.com

03 Film Club

What are you watching these days? Is there a film that you have been amazed by recently or a movie that changed your life? Share it with like-minded people at this special meet-up.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Feb 19, 4-5 pm
Register: 9886294444

HOME, ISOLATED

Number of covid hospitalisations drop steadily in the city; west zone reports highest percentage of admissions at 15.06%

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Currently, a majority of the covid cases reported in the city are under home isolation, while among the eight Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) zones, the percentage of hospitalised cases has been high in west zone at 15.06 per cent.

While going by the BBMP war room data, the number of hospitalisation cases under the government quota has seen a downward trend in the last 15 days, where the city saw the highest single-day admission at 54 on February 4. By February 8, only 15 admissions were reported after which, February 13 reported only four single-day admissions and on February 14, only one hospitalisation was reported. However, the west zone has reported a high percentage of hospitalisation in the last seven days.

West zone has been carrying out high number of tests in comparison to the other zones. From the last seven days' figures, 8422 average daily tests were reported with the positivity rate was low at 0.89 per cent and the average daily positive cases stood at 90. While over 84.94 per cent of covid patients were in home isolation, the other 15.06 per cent were in hospitals or covid care centres.

Mahadevapura zone, in spite of reporting a high positivity rate in the past seven days at 3.96 per cent, had a low hospitalisation percentage at 4.61 per cent. The other 95.65 per cent were under home isolation.

Dasarahalli on the other hand, reported high percentage of hospitalisation at 10.08 per cent, while only 35 average daily cases have been reported. Over 1491 average tests daily are being done and the positivity rate stands at 2.33 per cent.

A senior health officer from the west zone said: "We are getting around 40 -50 cases per day. There are not cluster cases which are being reported, there are old sporadic cases that are being reported.

We have been conducting higher tests of 7,000 plus per day, where people have turned out to be covid-positive. Now based on the revised testing targets, we been asked to conducted 4,500 tests per day. The hospitalisations have been high in the zone as many of the cases are with comorbidities and the patients are shifted to hospitals for treatment.

However, there are no severe cases, and majority of them are recovering and getting discharged."

Another official said, "BBMP zonal teams make calls once we receive data of a patient turning positive. We take details over the calls and if the patient is said to have co-morbidities at a higher age, they are asked to shift to hospitals immediately since their condition can deteriorate if not monitored well."

"Some patients under home isolation neglect if they get more symptoms, and continue the same medications. They need to see a doctor immediately and based on the doctor's recommendation, they can decide to continue home isolation or get hospitalised. People at times tend to come late which can cause their condition to get severe," said a zonal officer. In Yelahanka zone, 9.27 per cent hospitalisation was reported, while Bommanahalli was at 6.54 per cent, east zone at 4.12 per cent, RR Nagar at 4.74 per cent and south zone at 4.92 per cent. The containment zones have further dropped, only 17 active containment zones being reported; highest in Bommanhalli with 11 zones and south and Yelahanka with 3 zones each. Other zones like Dasarahalli, east, Mahadevapura, RR Nagar have zero.

A health worker collects a sample for covid-testing in the city

> **"The hospitalisations have been high in the zone as many of the cases are with comorbidities and the patients are shifted to hospitals for treatment**
> – a senior officer, west zone

TPR falls below 2%
The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) which is a crucial indicator of Covid transmissibility has fallen below 2 per cent in Karnataka on Tuesday even as the state reported 1,405 fresh cases including 765 in Bengaluru. The current TPR for the state is 1.91 per cent. Around 5,762 discharges took place and as a result, there was a significant drop in active cases as well (Karnataka: 26,832, Bengaluru 11,000). Around 26 people died in the state on Tuesday due to Covid including six in Bengaluru. The tests have also reduced with 73,286 being tested across the state.

Kidwai gets bone marrow transplant facility

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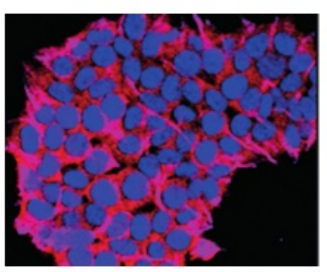
For any cancer patient – including kids -- timely and correct healthcare is crucial. To ensure that no child battling cancer is deprived of treatment, a bone marrow transplant centre has been set up in Kidwai which will provide free treatment for kids from poor families.

Minister for Health Dr K Sudhakar participated in the stone-laying ceremony for the ICU. The minister said that bone marrow transplant is unaffordable for poor patients at private hospitals. Two kids have already received treatment and more people will avail treatment here in coming days. "People from across the state come to Kidwai for cancer treatment which has increased the burden on Kidwai. To address this, and increase the accessibility of quality cancer treatment across the state we are planning to set up regional centres in all districts.

"We already have regional centres in Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, and Mysuru. The one in Belagavi will start this year. Child cancer is one of the major causes of death among kids and adolescents across the world, especially in developing countries. Lack of early diagnosis and timely treatment are the main reasons behind fatality," said the minister.



Facility will help prevent deaths of children due to cancer

What happened at the bar, didn't stay at the bar

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A row over parking a bike escalated to a level where workers of a bar were booked for assaulting a customer.

The incident happened at Kote Garden Bar and Restaurant in Singasandra near Bommanahalli.

Vishvanatha Shaniah planned to meet his old friend who had come to the city and was waiting for him at Kudlu Gate. Shaniah went to Kudlu Gate on his bike, picked him up and both of them went to the Kote Garden Bar and Restaurant.

As Shaniah and his friend had finished their lunch, they were waiting for another friend outside the bar where he had parked his bike.

One of the bar staff took his bike out of the parking row and parked it towards the road. "My bike was a new one, just a month-old and I questioned the bar staff as to why they were moving away the vehicle," Shaniah said.

The bar staff allegedly rudely stated that the parking lot was meant for the staff and customers could not park there. When Shanaiah complained about this to the bar manager and the cashier, heated arguments ensued and Shaniah sternly said they cannot touch his motorcycle when the bar manager and the cashier shoved him away.

Irked and annoyed, cashier Punith along with the bar manager charged at Shaniah using a PVC pipe and started beating him. The bar staff thought that he was very drunk and they could easily pass the blame to the police for his misconduct. But, Shaniah maintained his cool and when he came out of the bar, he told the cashier and bar manager that he wasn't leaving. Punith and five to six other bar servers came on to the road and started beating Shaniah. "A stranger tried to help me, but he was also slapped by the bar staff," Shaniah told Bangalore Mirror.

Someone from the spot had informed the police who rushed to the spot.

The police analysed CCTV camera footage and spoke to Shanaiah who convinced the cops that he was the one who was beaten up for no reason. The cops then took up a complaint from Shaniah, and registered an FIR against bar cashier Punith and others who have been booked for assaulting using dangerous weapons.

Bar workers said to have assaulted man with a PVC pipe after he parked his bike in 'their' parking space

Pilgrimage offer costs man ₹16K

Accused goes incommunicado after taking money

The family was planning a trip to Tirupati

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With offers on pilgrimage packages doing rounds on the social media groups, a lot of people are falling prey to the budget friendly prices and are losing money to cybercrooks. The accused are duping pilgrims by taking the money for pre-booking and going incommunicado later.

Chethan (name changed), a resident of Shrirampura, who lost money to a cyber crook, has filed a complaint with the North CEN police on Monday. Chethan said that last week, he and his family were planning to go to Tirupati and they had booked the tickets which got cancelled at the last minute.

He said, "We had not put up any queries regarding booking tickets. Coincidentally, my wife received a message on her social media groups where a person offered a very good budget-friendly deal. My wife contacted him and he informed her that he would charge only Rs 1,000 per person and it was a good deal for the last minute and we agreed to it."

Chethan added that they wanted to book for 13 people and he charged a little extra for direct darshan and prasad. "The total came up to Rs 16,250, which we paid online. This was very less compared to other places and the amount was much higher when we planned by ourselves. We did not suspect them of fraud. Only after we transferred the money and he stopped responding, we felt suspicious. We called him a few times to check about the tickets but when he blocked our numbers, we realised that it was a fraud," he said.

Even after filing a complaint with the cyber crime police, Chethan states that the accused is still active with the same number and is still circulating the message on social media groups.

A senior police officer said that many people fall for such scams and lose money. "Despite us spreading awareness on cyber crime and asking people not to believe messages circulating on social media groups and sending money to unknown persons without verifying their background, people still tend to fall for it. As this is a small amount, a lot of people wouldn't have come forward to file a complaint with the police. People should book their trips only through recognised websites and not go with unknown persons online," he said.

People should book their trips only through recognised websites and not fall into such traps
–A police official

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Goodbye free parking

Agencies refuse to take up multi-level parking facility maintenance near Freedom Park; Palike may ban free parking in the area to appease them

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Free parking around Freedom Park may be banned soon. BBMP is planning to lease a three-floored vehicle parking facility near Freedom Park at the cost of Rs 79.81 crore.

But contractors are not showing an interest to take up the multi-storey parking project which can help many travelling to areas in the Central Business District.

Those visiting areas like Chickpet, Gandhinagar, BVK Iyengar Road, KG Road, Palace Road and Sheshadri Road can park their vehicles there. This facility can cater to 556 cars and 445 two-wheelers. This was completed after five years of starting work. This parking facility is 30,906 sq metres on Kalidasa Road. But when BMP invited tenders no agency showed an interest due to free parking facilities available near Freedom Park.

The bidders who participated in the free-bid process requested to ban vehicle parking on Kalidasa Road, Freedom Park entrance, Ramachandra Road, 2nd and 5th Main Road, 2nd to 6th Cross Roads and Subedar Chatram Road. The agencies said they will participate only when free parking is banned on all these roads.

A meeting was conducted in this regard. It was headed by Additional Chief Secretary for Urban Development Department Rakesh Singh and held on January 6. It was decided to ban parking around Freedom park. Prior to this, police and BBMP officials jointly conducted a survey and submitted a report with recommendations. Parking may be banned on the roads near Freedom Park's entrance, Ramachandra Road, 2nd and 5th Main Road, 2nd and 6th Crosses and Subedar Chatram Road.

Protests are often held at Freedom Park and Kalidasa Road. The protestors park their vehicles on the road mentioned above. This creates traffic jams and irks traders and residents. BBMP planned to avoid such congestion by building a parking space for 1,000 vehicles. But due to the free parking available in the surrounding areas, no one is interested in paying for parking.

Senior officials have also recommended Light Commercial Motor Vehicle parking in Y Ramachandra Rao Road for a fee. This must include a multi-storey building tender and this also parking bay at the entrance of Freedom Park. The yearly bid for parking fee collection and management was fixed at Rs 4.50 crore. Bidders objected to this amount and urged the authorities to decrease it. So, it was decided to implement a trial for three to six months to practice multi-storeyed parking by a private agency. The bid amount will be decided as per the actual number of trial runs.

A senior BBMP official said, "Two private agencies are ready for a trial run of the parking fee collection and management. We will implement FASTag (a RFID passive tag used for making toll payments directly from the customers linked prepaid or savings/current account) in the parking place and verify how much the fee is collected. Afterwards the bid amount will be finalised."

A file photo of the parking facility in Gandhinagar

Bidders requested to ban free parking at Kalidasa Road, Freedom Park entrance, Ramachandra Road, 2nd and 5th Main Road, 2nd to 6th Cross Roads and Subedar Chatram Road

Bangalore Mirror
Parking in Gandhinagar to get easy soon

On August 6, 2021, BM reported that the parking facility would cost Rs 79.81 crore and be ready for use in September

But what about the joy of graduation?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even more frustrating," Sanjana added.

Some students are of the view that they would rather wait and have a delayed graduation in-person: "They should push it to January, February or even May of next year. The situation is likely to get better. They should postpone the graduation rather than cancel it altogether.

It doesn't make sense for us to sit at home and log in to watch speeches and not be there," said Siddharth, who finished studying mechanical engineering earlier this year from a Bengaluru college.

Others said they would rather be done with the formality sooner so they can move on to the next stage of their lives.

"It is sad that we're missing out on an experience; but what can be done? No one could have predicted covid-19. Colleges are only doing what the government and health experts are recommending to stop the spread of the virus.

Colleges said due to risks of holding large scale events amid Omicron scare, they were forced to take measures that have upset students

"The situation is likely to get better. They should postpone the graduation rather than cancel it altogether

– Siddharth, former student

Regardless of graduation, we will still receive our degree and can move on to working on our careers," said Vivek, a BBA graduate. Colleges said due to the risks of holding large scale events amid the Omicron scare, they were forced to take measures that have upset students.

Some colleges, meanwhile, are only adhering to guidelines issued by the state government, educational boards or health experts.

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Path breaking

RR Nagar

This pavement in BEML Layout is terribly damaged. It can prove to be a nightmare in the night-time or during rainy season. It must be repaired.

Bus, stop

Shanti Nagar

The road near the main bus stop is in a bad condition. It causes inconvenience to passengers and bus drivers. But the authorities neglect the road.

What a mess

Sunkadakatte

Folks have dumped debris from construction at the bus stop here. It must be cleared soon.

New flyover in town

A new flyover to Manyata Tech Park was inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The 900-metre long flyover, funded by Embassy Group, has access ramps to the tech park.

Traffic signal battery thieves nabbed

The central division of police have finally cracked down on the traffic battery thieves and have arrested a couple who used to flick the batteries from signals across the city.

The couple has been identified as Sikander and Najma. The two used to be active from 3 am to 5 am and used to move around on a new bike to commit the thefts. The accused not only covered their faces but also disconnected the tail lamp of the scooter to make sure that the CCTVs wouldn't capture the registration number. Police who were checking the CCTVs in the vicinity found the bike on which the accused were moving in a scooter with no tail lamp.

Based on a series of complaints, a special team was formed to nab the accused. While one team was tracking down the usual route taken by the accused through CCTV cameras, the other team approached the RTO and obtained details of 4,000 bikes of the same make which the couple used and shortlisted the bikes. Police zeroed in on 300 bikes and started to keep an active watch between 3 am to 5 am near the traffic spots where the traffic batteries were installed. The police caught them in one of the spots when they arrived to steal the batteries Wednesday at around 3 am near Goraguntepalya.

Around 230 batteries were seized from the culprits

Police said that the cost of the battery is Rs 7,000, however the stolen batteries were being sold for Rs 1,000 per piece. The batteries have been recovered from the receivers.

Following their arrest, the Ashoknagar police recovered 230 stolen batteries worth around Rs 20 lakh from them. About 68 cases have been registered against them. Police said that the couple had stolen the batteries in Ashoknagar, High Grounds, Sadashivanagar, Wilson Garden, Vyalikaval, Halasuru, Indirnagar, Magadi Road, Yeshwanthapura, Rajajinagar, Basavanagudi, Kengeri, Shivajinagar, Srirampura and other areas. — BMB

Police put an end to man's peep show

Man, son held for attacking woman who called out peeping Tom

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A 55-year-old man and his son have been arrested after the father sneaked up into his neighbour's house and tried to misbehave with her and the duo assaulted her on Friday. The accused Arumugam is said to have earlier been caught peeping through the window to see the mother of three changing. When the woman became aware of this, she complained to her husband who blocked off the window with a cupboard. That is when Arumugam is said to have snuck up to the house.

When the woman screamed out in alarm alerting her neighbours, Arumugam's son Alexander allegedly joined the father and assaulted her claiming she was blowing up a small issue. Based on a complaint from the woman, the Byappanahalli police have taken up a case booking the accused for voyeurism, words and gestures intended to outrage modesty of woman, wrongful confinement, intentional insult, assault and sexual harassment. The cops have arrested the father-son duo, produced them before the magistrate who have remanded them to judicial custody.

Twenty-eight-year-old Priya (name changed), a resident of Gajendra Nagar in Old Byappanahalli, lives on the ground floor of her rented house with her children and husband who is a pourakarmika. Arumugam and Alexander live on the first floor of the house as tenants too. Arumugam claimed that

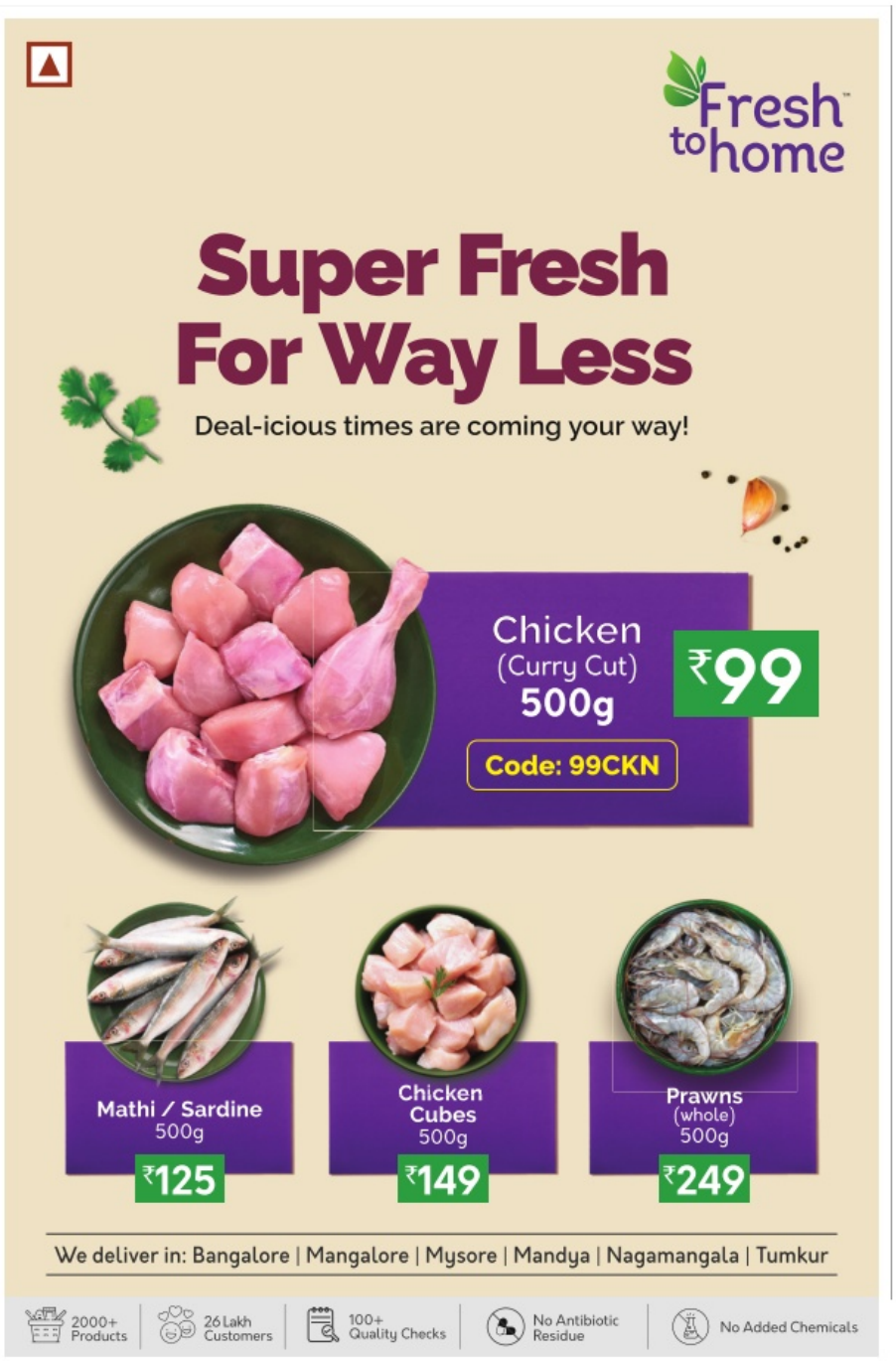
> **"There is a glass window on the wall of the stairway through which one can look into the house** –Complainant's kin

he was an ex-service man, but locals told this newspaper that he used to work for military personnel. His son Alexander has been going to school and Arumugam works now as a security guard. "There is a glass window on the side wall of the stairway through which one can look into Priya's house as one takes the stairs," Priya's brother told Bangalore Mirror.

Arumugam is said to have been peeping in whenever he took the stairs to his house and once when Priya was changing, she noticed Arumugam looking in. She reprimanded him. Hearing the commotion, neighbours gathered, but since Arumugam claimed he is an ex-service man and he was just using the stairs to get to his house, the neighbours dispersed. Priya had complained to her husband and family that Arumugam was bothering her. Her brother and husband put up a cupboard in front of the open window. On February 11, around 9.30 am, Arumugam, allegedly sneaked into Priya's house while she was sleeping on a sofa and tried to misbehave with her.

She raised an alarm and informed her family and neighbours about the incident. Minutes later, Alexander came down and both the men allegedly assaulted Priya by grabbing her hair. Priya told her brother who informed the police who rushed to the spot. "Earlier, the father-son duo were warned and then when another complaint had gone to the police station regarding Arumugam, they had registered a Non-Cognizable Report (NCR), and had warned him, but now, the cops have registered a case against him," Priya's brother said.

According to Priya's brother, she is not the only victim. "After his arrest, husbands of three women have come to the police with complaints of harassment," he said.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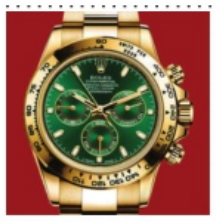

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I, ALIFYA SURATWALA W/o. Murtuza Eranpurwala, residing at No. 21 & 22, 6th Cross, 22nd Main, Vinayakanagar, J.P Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to ALIFYA MURTUZA ERANPURWALA, vide affidavit dated 14.02.2022, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, HAZRA, R/at #2-422, Sunkadakatte, Kolambe, Mangalore - 574142. I Have changed my name to PUTTHU BEGUM, W/o.Bajpe Kenjaru Abubakkar, Vide Affidavit Dated: 14/02/2022. Sworn before Notary: S.I. Balaguru, Advocate, Bangalore

I Muniraju Srinivas Reddy R/o 1232/1/35-3,24th main Jp nagar 7th phase Putenahalli, Bangalore 560078 have changed my minor son's name from Vivaan Muniraju to Vivaan Muniraju Reddy

I, ABDUL GAFAR S/o Amanulla residing at No. 29, 20th Cross, Near Khwaja Masjid, Popular Colony, Mangammanapalya, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru- 560 068 have changed my name to ABDUL GAFFAR vide affidavit dated 14.02.2022 sworn before notary K.V Mani, B.lore.

I Ajay Kumar Srinivasaiah S/O, Sreenivasaiah B S R/o No 113a Sree Nilaya 3rd Cross Subedharpalya J B Kaval Vidyaranyapura Post Bangalore - 560097 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Sreenivasaiah

I Muniraju Srinivas Reddy R/o 1232/1/35-3,24th main Jp nagar 7th phase Putenahalli, Bangalore 560078 have changed my minor son's name from Vihaan Muniraju to Vihaan Muniraju Reddy

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Advertorial

The contributions of various mutt's in the social sphere of the state are well known. The **Anna Dasoha and Jnana Dasohas** undertaken by these mutt's are acclaimed and admired all over the country. One more noted addition to these is the **Jala Dasoha championed by Taralabalu Jagadguru Sri. Dr. Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamy.** He dreamt of bringing water from the river Tungabhadra to the parched district of Chitradurga and various parts of the neighboring district of Davanagere and has fulfilled it. **Jala Dasoha is conducted during the Taralabalu Hunnime held every year in various places.** This year it was supposed to be held in Kottur, but due to Covid restrictions it is being held symbolically in Sirigere for three days. **The Taralabalu Hunnime will conclude on 16th February 2022.**

Bharamasagara Lake
A Theertha Kshetra for farmers

Poet Andayya in his work Kabbigara Kavam has described the natural beauty of Karnataka as a land of blissfull water bodies, lakes, rivers and soothing monsoons. True to the poet's words one can hardly find a place in Karnataka bereft of lakes, lakes where lotuses bloom and bees throng them for nectar! There are many places in the Old Mysore region whose names end with a Kere. In Chitradurga alone we have places like Holalkere, Sirigere, Challakere and so on. There may be around 100 places which have kere in their name. Lakes are the lifeline of rural life.

During the time of Kings and Maharajas constructing a lake was considered to be a very honourable deed. Padmarasa, a minister in Vijayanagar King's court, was famous as Lake Padmarasa for his interest in constructing lakes throughout the kingdom. Dalawayi Lingappa start the construction of the Bharamasagara lake in 1689 BC. It took 32 years for the construction of this lake and was commissioned on 30th of October 1721.

Spread over an area of one thousand acres, the lake has dried up during the last 15 years due to drought. Under pressure from farmer unions, water from 22 lakes under rajanali, though not mentioned under lift irrigation, was supposed to bring water to Bharamasagara lake from Haluvarthy, which we opposed. Under that project water was not sufficient to fill the 22 small lakes, let alone this mighty lake. That being the case, water would only have dripped from Haluvarthy to Bharamasagara. This was the main point of our opposition.

None thought of bringing water to the lake by pipes from the river Tungabhadra, In 2018 during the Taralabalu Hunnime organized at Jagalur, we urged upon the government in front of lakhs of people to consider Jagaluru and Bharamasagara lift irrigation projects on priority.

The then Chief minister Sri. Siddaramaiah paid heed to our demand and within 15 days of his return to Bangalore, he announced a grant of rupees 500 crore for these two projects in the annual budget. Then ministers from our district Sri. Anjaneya and Sri. Mallikarjun along with Jagalur MLA Sri. Rajesh stood by us in our demand. Later the coalition government headed by Sri. Kumaraswamy held a meeting of the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam in which water resources minister Sri. DK Shivakumar referred to the projects as Sirigere Guru's project.

Then Sri. Yediyurappa released a grant of 250 crores as the first instalment for the project. After our strong objection he cleared a grant of 1200 crores in one go within

a week. Basavaraj Bommai, Govind Karjol, Madhuswamy, CT Ravi, CC Patil, who were ministers and MP Siddesh and MLA Ramachandrappa played a part in this.

This year the Taralabalu Hunnime celebration will conclude on the 16th. In this connection here is a write-up by Swamiji, about his successful Jaladasoha campaign.

The theists believe that they have to visit Kashi, Rameshwara or Mecca (according to their faith) at least once in their lifetime to experience eternal peace in life.

But Bharamasagara lake has turned out to be the revered Teertha Kshetra for the farmers of this region. People left aside their pilgrimage to Kashi, Kedar, Rameshwara and Mecca to witness the first flow of Tungabhadra river water to Bharamasagara lake on 29th September 2021.

Exactly three hundred years after construction by Bicchugatti Baramanna, the lake once again came to life with water flowing from the Tungabhadra. The joy on the faces of the people who witnessed the event gave a sense of lasting happiness. The reaction of World Bank advisor Mohua, after seeing the video clip of the occasion is as follows:

"What a joyous sight! Changing the lives of farmers completely. I wish this could be replicated everywhere in ten thousand additional locations. It is not only a question of funds shortage. Without dedicated and committed coordination and management efforts and determination to see the conclusion of the project, all funds will go astray. The shortage is not funds, but rather it is a shortage of leaders like yourself"

The saying that life itself is like gold, but gold does not bring happiness is not fully correct. According to our visionaries religion, asset, desire and moksha are the four principles. It includes money.

So it is not wrong to enjoy the money or assets gained by religious and just means. One cannot find peace with gains from illegal actions. But one should not be addicted to these pleasures. It is precisely because of this that many farmers have pledged the gold worn by their wives to get loans to lead their livelihood.

To get water to their fields by digging up borewells and when they fail to ensure water supply through tankers. Now with the lake filling up to the brim once again they can till their fields peacefully, get rid of their loans and dress up their wives with gold ornaments also.

According to our learning wives are like the reserve bank for the family. They do not splurge money like men. It is better to deck up the women folk in the family with gold ornaments than to give it as offering to the invisible god. It acts as a safe deposit locker for future hardships!

Till now farmers had to go through hard times and even had to pledge their family belonging to overcome water scarcity. Now as the lakes fill up one can see lasting happiness return to their faces and make them smile with a sense of fulfilment.

Sri Taralabalu Jagadguru
Dr. Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamigalu, Sirigere

As court hearing continues, students remain absent

Several schoolchildren boycott exams, class across the state over the hijab plea; ministers urge everyone to follow court orders

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The Karnataka High Court was on Wednesday urged to direct the government to allow students wearing the hijab in classes as more students remained out in schools across the state, refusing to shun the head covering.

A bench of Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, and Justices Krishna S Dixit and Khaji Jaibunnesa Mohiyuddin adjourned the hearing of petitions to Wednesday after hearing arguments and counter arguments for 2 hours and 15 minutes. Senior advocates Devdatt Kamat, Mohammad Tahir, and Ravi Varma Kumar presented their arguments in favour of girls demanding to wear hijab, while Advocate General Prabhuling Navadagi represented the government.

The petitioners submitted that since the colleges are being started from Wednesday, the bench must pass an order allowing Muslim students to wear hijab while attending classes. They also quoted a judgment of the South African court, where a Tamil girl was not allowed to attend classes for wearing a nose ring. When it was questioned in the court, the student was allowed to attend classes, counsel submitted.

The petitioners also submitted that the Karnataka government is yet to make guidelines on uniform, and without this, it is improper to make the uniform compulsory for students. When one of the petitioners submitted that students with hijab are not allowed in Urdu schools in the state, the Advocate General objected to lacing arguments without submitting an application before the court. The bench asked counsel to submit an application in this regard. The petitioners argued that the government does not have supreme power of prohibition in the name of public order.

A student, who boycotted the SSLC Preliminary Examination, leaves her school in Shivamogga on Tuesday

Meanwhile, 25 girl students of a Government School in Chikkamagaluru boycotted exams as they were asked to take off their hijab. Over 20 students went back to home without attending school for the same reason in Nelya village of Madikeri district. Majority of students at Urdu Girls School in Kalaburagi chose to remain absent from classes as the hijab was not allowed. Similar incidents have been reported from Gadag, Hassan, Yadgir, and Shivamogga districts.

'Follow court order'

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy, meanwhile, said that the government would follow the high court orders in this regard.

With offline classes for colleges set to resume from Wednesday, Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwathnarayan has said that wherever uniforms were mandatory, students were supposed to wear them and in those colleges where there were no uniforms, students should follow the court order.

Govt set to crack down on outfits disturbing peace Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said authorities have been directed to identify and initiate legal action against religious organisations attempting to break the society and corrupt innocent students.

MLA regrets comment

Congress MLA BZ Zameer Ahmad Khan, who stoked controversy by stating that without hijab Muslim women 'will get raped in India', while reacting on the hijab row, after being slammed from all corners, regretted his statements on Tuesday. Khan stated, "I get anxious and scared to see increasing atrocities and rape on women in our country. Because of this state of our society, I said that at least with burqa-hijab we may be able to prevent rapes. It was not intended to hurt or disrespect anyone. I regret if it has hurt anyone." Education is the only thing that protects women. "If, for religious reasons, not wearing hijab prevents them from accessing education, I would want them to first get educated at least by wearing it."

(With inputs from agencies)

KIADB will develop industrial areas in eight districts: Minister

The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) will develop new industrial areas in eight districts, in an effort to push industrial growth beyond Bengaluru, Large and Medium Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani said on Tuesday.

The Minister was replying to JD(S) MLC H M Ramesh Gowda's query in the Legislative Council.

"KIADB is planning to develop new industrial areas in 2022-23.... KIADB will develop Harohalli 5th phase in Ramanagara, Gauribidanur 3rd phase in Chikkaballapura, Madhugiri industrial area in Tumakuru, Jakkasandra 2nd phase in Kolar, Kuduragundi industrial area in Mandya, Arasikere industrial area in Hassan, Kadechur 2nd phase in Yadgir and Obalapura industrial area in Bengaluru Rural," Nirani said.

He said, KIADB has developed 188 industrial estates across the state so far and basic infrastructure facilities are in good condition.

The government has released Rs 525 crore under Critical Infrastructure Development Scheme to upgrade infrastructure facilities in old industrial areas, he added.

Responding to another query, the Minister said that the Global Investors Meet 'Invest Karnataka - 2022' will be held from November 2 to 4 at Palace Ground in Bengaluru.

"Karnataka attracted Rs 1,02,866 crore investments and remained top FDI recipient in India with 46 per cent share in April-September 2021 fiscal. We are one of the top FDI recipients among the major states during COVID-19 pandemic. We have implemented Industrial Policy 2020-25 with an aim to attract more foreign investments and push industrial growth in the state. Those who make more than Rs 500 crore investments will get special incentives," he said. **BMB**

All sidewalks of life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and sustained injuries. Many pavements have uncovered stormwater drains, making the situation even more dangerous."

Using public transport with any form of disability is out of the question: "Only the major Metro stations are disabled-friendly to some extent. However, washrooms at all the Metro stations are too narrow to be used by a wheelchair bound person. Using BMTC ramp buses is an idea inconceivable for those with disabilities," said Khandappanavar.

Disability rights activists and advocates rue that there is no collaboration between government agencies to make the city accessible. They said while Karnataka formed the state access audit committee a few years ago to ensure the Centre's 'Accessible India' campaign gains ground in the state, the committee has not had a single meeting in the last three years.

"The committee was formed over five years ago to ensure an accessible environment to all. However, a lot remains to be done. Leave alone infrastructure, the government offices and departments are inaccessible too. As per a Supreme Court order, every department should have an interpreter; I have not come across any department with such a facility. In rural areas, the government offices lack even the basic infrastructure such as ramps and disabled-friendly toilets," said S Babu, assistant director, policy and advocacy, The Association of People with Disability, an NGO based in Bengaluru.

Smart City?

While many roads across the city are being revamped under the Smart City project, disabilities rights activists and residents are of the view that the city cannot be 'smart' if it fails to include people from all walks of life.

"Smart City projects must be aligned to the needs of the disabled. The road in our area is being repaired under the Smart City project. The work is completed; but none of the footpaths have ramps. While some sections have tactile guidance, it is placed randomly and not continuous. At one of the pavements inside Cubbon Park, the tactile guidance leads to a wall. Moreover, in some places, pedestrian crossings and pedestrian signals are not adjacent. This cannot be called inclusive," said Thanmaya BP, a resident of Vasanth Nagar.

"We are trying our best to make the roads and pavement accessible to all. We are doing so by incorporating ramps and tactile flooring to our projects. We are facing difficulties in installing ramps on footpaths that are high. We have appointed a committee to survey every road under Smart City and will submit a report soon. We plan to turn all the footpaths disabled-friendly," said Vinayak Sugur, chief engineer, Smart City.

HEALTH TIP: Peanuts are a source of healthy fat that may help lower the level of bad cholesterol in the body

Consuming magnesium-loaded food relaxes the uterine muscles, which is responsible for easing menstrual cramps

BangaloreMirror 9
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I was with my girlfriend yesterday. We were about to have sex for the first time and I took my penis out. I was waiting for her to get naked, but when she did, I was completely shocked – she had a bigger penis than mine. I didn't know what to do. Still, I remain confused. She's my girlfriend, but how can there be any sexual intercourse? Should I break up with her? Please advise.

It is very unfortunate but to help her to visit a doctor and perhaps later an endocrinologist.

2 Sir, my son is 15 years old, and he has been masturbating since he was 14. He doesn't face problems usually, but every now and then, after a session of masturbation, his penis pains like someone is poking a pin into it, he says. He also feels the need to urinate a lot – this usually stops the poking pain. Is this a serious problem, and is masturbating daily healthy for a boy that age ? Does it have any side effects? Sometimes, he masturbates upto three times a day. He will be fine, right?

Masturbation is the simple way the body excretes the old sperms making place for new ones. Since it gives pleasure there is a tendency to overdo it. He has to start to think how often and how he should do it. Discuss with him that he should only do it when sexually excited and not make it into a habit. It is possible that the pain he is experiencing has something to do with the way he is doing it. Your family doctor may help to guide him.

3 I am a 55 years old widower. I have started enjoying having sex with young men. Should I quit this habit? I fear the negative reaction from my family or society. Kindly advise.

Ideally nobody else but you should decide on how you should behave. And since the question of family and society has been raised, you need to make your own decision.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

Watch out, ladies!

Beware of the retinal disease which primarily affects women

Kayalvizhi Arivalan
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Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a vision-impairing eye condition that affects total retinal function.

AMD primarily affects persons in their 50s and 60s, and it is currently the most common cause of substantial irreversible vision loss among the elderly, according to research. It is progressive, causing the macula — the region of the retina responsible for central vision – to deteriorate over time.

According to Dr Nitin Prabhudesai, eye specialist, "Women have more genetic and hormonal issues as risk factors for AMD. For women having a healthy lifestyle and regular eye examination after the age of 50 can help detect and treat AMD at an early stage. Proper care of systemic diseases like diabetes and hypertension also helps. Having programs that will help women especially from lower socioeconomic strata in detecting & treating AMD would help. AMD leads to irreversible blindness, so the individual becomes a burden to the family & is likely to be neglected, hence taking care of older women of the society is a social responsibility for all."

AMD's gender skew

Women have been found to be more susceptible to AMD than men. Global Data epidemiologists found that over 66 percent of incidence instances of AMD occurred in women across seven main pharmaceutical markets in 2016 (the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Japan). According to studies, the cyclic hormonal variations in women's bodies, which are exacerbated by the use of contraceptives and other endocrinological medicines, are to blame for the gender skew in AMD. Another study found that women have a higher life expectancy than men, which is one of the main reasons why they are more prone to AMD. Although no single cause for AMD has been identified, lifestyle factors including smoking, high blood pressure, obesity, and a family history of AMD are thought to be risk factors.

"Macular Degeneration is more likely to occur in people over 50 years of age. The biggest risk factor is a family history of AMD. If either of the parents has AMD, there is a higher risk. Some types of macular degeneration are more common in women, those include Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy. The risk factors in women are age, smoking, family history, and race. Reversing the vision loss from macular degeneration is not possible but retaining the remaining vision can be done with accurate treatment with anti VEGF intravitreal injections and regular checks with the ophthalmologist," says Dr. Ajay Dudani, CEO Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Mumbai retina centre.

Tips to take care of your eyes

- Reduce continuous long hours on screen: The is blue light exposure increases the risk of retinal degeneration
- Use blue light filtering glasses: These glasses reduce eye strain as they help increase contrast on your screen, making it easier to focus and subsequently reducing eye strain
- Adding nutrition to your diet: Foods that are heavy in vitamin C, vitamin E, and zinc, reduce the risk of certain serious eye diseases. You can find these antioxidants in green leafy vegetables, fruits, nuts, and a lot of other foods
- Regular screening: Keep an Eye on your vision health. Annual screenings can help detect eye diseases early and early treatment can help preserve your vision
- Wear sunglasses: that block out 99% to 100% of UV-A and UV-B radiation (the sun's rays).

Experts feel it is critical for persons with AMD to maintain a regular follow-up and check-up schedule with their ophthalmologists. The most important step for women with AMD is to assess their diet and make modifications as needed. In addition, the correct treatment, approaching the right healthcare practitioner, commitment to treatment, and regular follow-ups will assist women in maintaining their retinal health and preventing AMD.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Keep 'em off sensitive skin

Just because one has sensitive skin doesn't mean they have to struggle with skincare. You just need to know which ingredients to avoid, and these 5 skincare ingredients take the cake.

Fragrances
Many of us consider a pleasant scent to be a deciding factor when selecting skincare, but before sniffing anything, we should ensure that no synthetic fragrances have been added. The vast majority of products contain purely chemically produced fragrance compositions, which have been linked to allergic reactions on the skin as well as headaches, allergies, dizziness, rashes, cough, skin irritation, pigmentation, and hyperactivity.

Sodium lauryl sulphate
Sodium lauryl sulphate is a widely used cleanser. It can be found in a variety of personal care products, including shampoos, cleansers and body washes. If SLS is not properly washed away, its residue can dehydrate your skin and reduce the levels of ceramide in your skin.

Chemical sunscreens
According to a recent study, six common chemical sunscreen ingredients absorb into the bloodstream at levels far exceeding those considered safe. After one application, one ingredient, oxybenzone, showed an absorption rate 188 times the safe level. Opting for mineral sunscreens which have titanium dioxide or zinc oxide as active ingredients are much safer for sensitive skin.

Parabens
Parabens are one of the most well-known no-no ingredients for sensitive skin, but these petroleum-derived preservatives are still widely used.

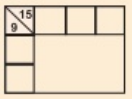
Essential oils
When exposed to sunlight, some constituents of essential oils, such as bergamot, are transformed into chemicals and enzymes, which can cause a photoallergic reaction. —FEMINA

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Which is equal to 1? Use the Order of Operations Rule.
(A) 6÷2(1+2) or (B) 6÷18(1+2)

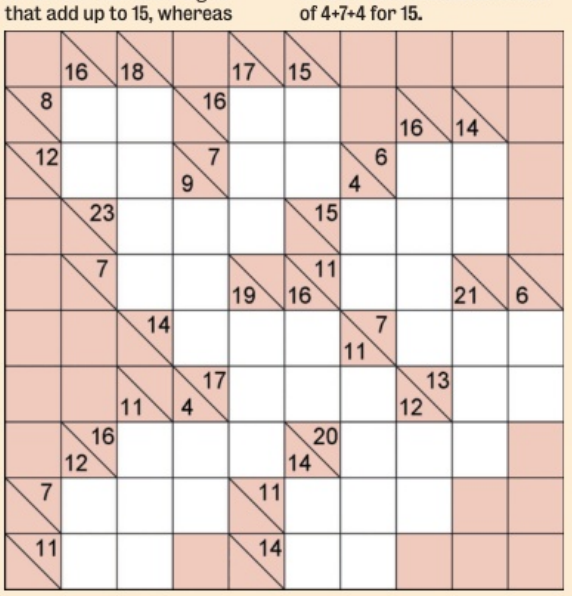
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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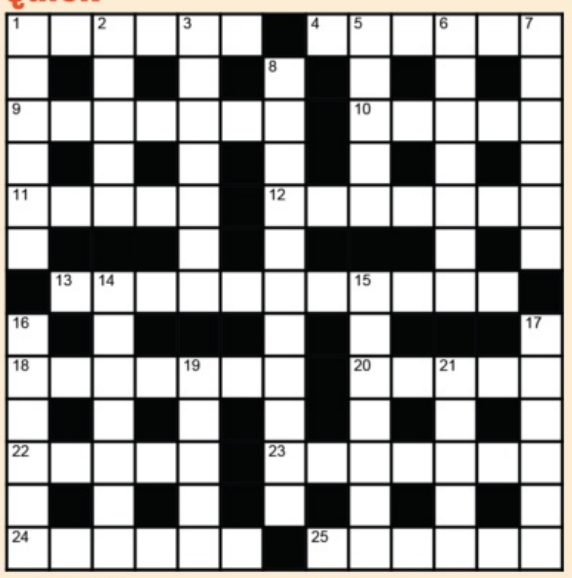


ACROSS

1 Condemn to exile (6)
4 Existing in fact (6)
9 Leg-spinner Narendra ___ (7)
10 Intends to (5)
11 Tilted over (5)
12 Cater for, furnish with (7)
13 Interstellar director ____ Nolan (11)
18 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
20 Concur (5)
22 A valuable fur (5)
23 Subtle distinctions (7)
24 Tiziano Vecellio ____: famous Italian painter (6)
25 Stephenson's character portraying the good side (6)

DOWN

1 See, look at (6)
2 Operatic lady (5)
3 Lal Bahadur ___: our ex-Prime Minister? (7)
5 A small jazz band (5)
6 Dissimilar (7)
7 Pay heed (6)
8 Sending off for a purpose (11)
14 Fish–"bali hut" anagram (7)
15 Calm down (7)
16 Cupboard (6)
17 Ship or container (6)
19 Cub Scout leader (5)
21 Unsteady (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T
XDLOL'J VW DSRRTLO RLOJWV XDSV S XOBYP XDSVAGBY, UWVXLVX RLOJWV.

Linemaro

When I'm with you, it really doesn't matter where I'm heading

Mindchow

You always admire what you really don't understand

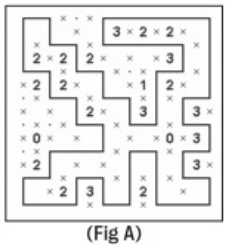
Joke of the day

Work is for people who don't know how to fish

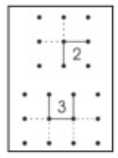
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

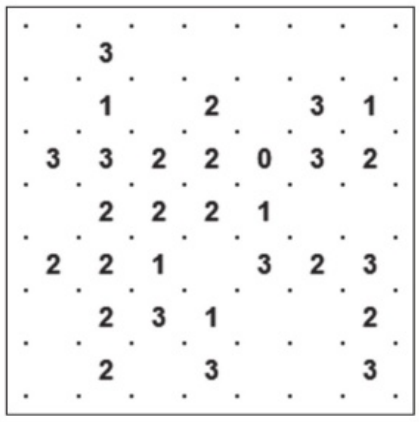


(Fig B) Not Allowed

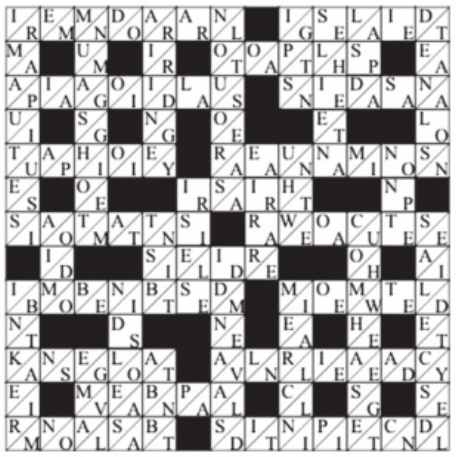
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



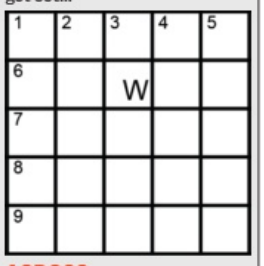
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Cates; 6 We red; 7 Cig in; 8 Segni; 9 Gaped

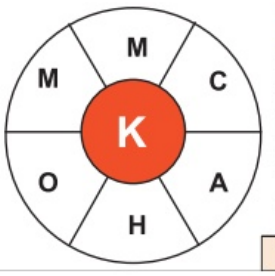
DOWN

1 Scrip; 2 Ace I a; 3 Wings; 4 Genet; 5 Ed deg

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the lower right hand circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6			5		7	2	4
			9					1
		7	2	3			8	
		1					6	
	8			7			9	
	7					1		
	4			2	3	5		
1					4			
5	2	9		1			4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
2 6 8 9

Medium = 1
2 2 6 9

Hard = 59
3 5 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

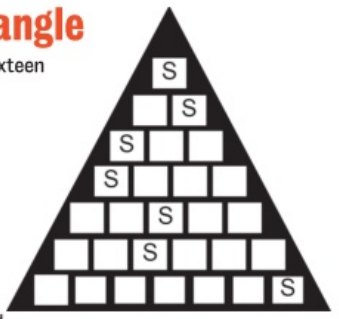
Differences: 1. Dog is moved. 2. Window is not as wide. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Lapel is missing. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Ear is smaller.

Riddler

Can you find a three-letter word that will go in front of each word in the group to make a new, compound word? For each group, the three-letter word will have just one letter changed from the answer to the previous group! (Example: Group 1 = Run, Group 2 = Fun) 1) Case, cracker, house, shell 2) Side, come, match, size

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Body of water
4 An auction
5 Usher's beat
6 Descend by rope
7 Loudly laments



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

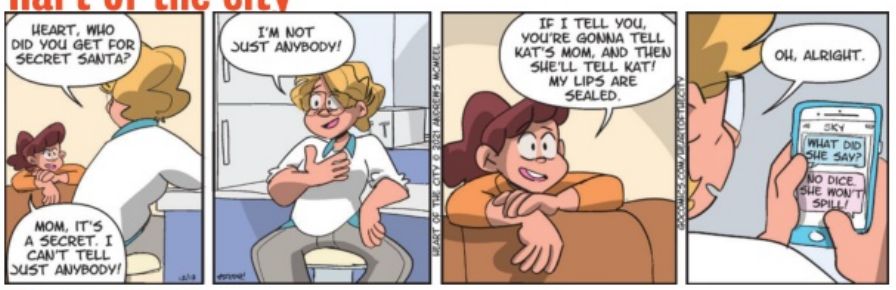
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, blessings from elders' may make you happy. Your investments may reap profits. Losses turn to profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest in your child's future also. You may also enjoy delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ears or nose may be resolved now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by elders. Your patience will become very good and your focus on your work may be very good. Parents' health will become good. You are likely to spend your time with elders. You may also meet some influential person, who may help you on the professional front. You may also enjoy romantic moments which may boost harmony in domestic life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be spiritual and may help needy people around you. You may also plan to donate some amount to charity or religious places. Your good karma may help you get success in difficult projects. You may sense some divine power around you, which may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted by the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dull and may become a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in the situation to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation and chant prayers which may help you to come out from this situation. With the help of elders' blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy at work and your network may expand. With the help of your network, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will improve.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may find yourself in a self-analysing state, which will bring some confidence to you. Your focus on your goals is clear now and you may succeed in achieving your goals. Your creativity might improve and you will take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may feel some satisfaction related to your life. Your opponents are likely to be under your control now.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are likely to use your creativity to renovate your house or office. Your focus towards your goals may be good. Overworking may tire your mind, which can create anxiety, restlessness and stress, which may affect your domestic life. Students are advised to avoid fantasising while studying. They are advised to study with focus and dedication.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be dissatisfied. People around you may not cooperate with you. You are advised to be patient. You are also advised to read documents carefully before signing any contracts. Making new investments in useless stuff may be bad for you. Students are advised to study with patience.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic and more focused, which may speed up postponed projects. Your subordinates may help you to start a new project, which may give you profits in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to family issues. Jobseeker may hear good news in terms of a job.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be busy with family issues. You may take some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid arguments in personal matters. Your arrogance may affect domestic harmony. Follow your intuition before making investments in the business.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your inner strength may help you to start some new innovations on the work front. You may get a big order in your parental business, which will increase growth in the business, in the near future. New responsibilities in your job may make you busy. Jobseekers might get good jobs. Your bond with your spouse may improve, which can maintain harmony in family life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull and your health may not be good. You may be nervous. You may also develop anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone important investments in the business or in real estate. Avoid rash driving. You should avoid long-distance travelling too. Meditate to find your way out of messy situations.

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P Goswami,
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(A) 6/2(1+2) = 6/2(3)
=3*3=9
(B) 6/18(1+2) = 6/18(3)
=(1/3)*3 = 1
Therefore,(B) is equal to 1

RIDDLER
1) = nut (nutcase, nutcracker, nuthouse, nutshell),
2) = out (outside, outcome, outmatch, outsize)

FAST FIVE

C	A	S	T	E
R	E	W	E	D
I	C	I	N	G
S	I	N	G	E
P	A	G	E	D

BULL'S EYE
amok, hack, HAMMOCK, hock, mock

STRIKE OUT

I	M	M	O	R	A	L	■	I	S	L	E	T	■	■
M	■	U	■	I	■	O	A	T	H	S	■	E	■	■
P	A	G	O	D	A	S	■	S	E	D	A	N	■	■
■	U	S	■	G	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	■
T	A	H	O	E	■	R	E	U	N	I	O	N	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	O	A	S	T	■	S	T	I	P	E	N	D	■	■
E	■	V	E	N	A	L	■	C	■	G	■	E	■	■
K	N	E	L	T	■	A	L	R	E	A	D	Y	■	■
N	■	S	■	E	■	H	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	M	B	I	B	E	D	■	M	E	W	E	D	■	■
■	I	■	I	L	I	E	■	O	■	A	■	■	■	■
S	A	T	A	N	S	■	R	E	A	C	T	S	■	■
E	■	O	■	I	S	I	T	■	P	■	■	■	■	■
T	A	H	O	E	■	R	E	U	N	I	O	N	■	■
U	S	■	G	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	■	■
P	A	G	O	D	A	S	■	S	E	D	A	N	■	■
M	■	U	■	I	■	O	A	T	H	S	■	E

 # 3 doyennes of comedy to host Oscars

Next month's Oscars will be hosted by three doyennes of comedy, Wanda Sykes, Amy Schumer and Regina Hall, it was confirmed Tuesday. It is the first time since 2018 that the Oscars will have a host

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Romancing in Spain for shoot

Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone will pick up where they left off and resume their 'Pathan' shoot on a romantic note.

The stars, who were expected to shoot a romantic song sequence in Mallorca, Spain, last October, will finally begin work on the same in March. According to the latest reports, the stars will head to Mallorca and Cadiz with their film team to shoot a grand romantic song sequence.

Director Siddharth Anand reportedly wants to capture the beauty of the island city famous for its beaches and limestone mountains. SRK, Deepika will also be joined by co-star John Abraham to shoot some high-octane action scenes and major confrontational sequences, states a report on Mid-day.

The 17-day schedule was originally slated to take place in October, however, production was delayed in the wake of the Aryan Khan drug case. Reports later stated that filming was postponed further after the third wave of the pandemic hit India.

A source previously told IANS that the director was keen to shoot in the coastal Spanish region as no other Bollywood film has ever shot song sequences there. "The intent is to create a song that is visually so grand that it is an instant hit. All necessary permissions are being worked on for a smooth shooting experience in Spain," the source added.

'Pathan' that is slated to release in 2022, also features Salman Khan in an extended cameo. —ETimes

The ace up her sleeve

... Actor Pooja Hegde tells us how she manages to avoid getting sidelined in movies with mega stars

Being one of the busiest actors of the south right now, Pooja Hegde is all set for a couple of big releases ahead.

Going back in time, Pooja had stated in one of her older interviews, how she maintains to be in focus, and not get sidelined in movies starring actors whose persona is so much larger than life.

On being quizzed about how Pooja strikes a balance to maintain her glam quotient, and also don't become just the decoration in a film, Pooja said that that confidence comes from within.

"I think it comes from an inner self-belief", as she quotes an instance from the Allu Arjun starrer 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo', "People did talk about 'Butta Bomma', and the songs much more than anything else. But, there were a few scenes where I tried to strike a balance, indicating how much importance my role carries, in the story".

> Prabhas is a goofy person, though at first, he looked shy. I enjoyed my time with him

"Also, I go an extra mile, and dub for my movies, even though the language is difficult. Now or later, people will recognise me and my efforts," the 'Radhe Shyam' actress had said.

On being asked about her experience working with Prabas for 'Radhe Shyam', Pooja said, "Prabhas is quite a goofy person, though at first, he looked so shy. I enjoyed time with him and felt comfortable to act alongside him. That is why our chemistry in the movie has come out so well".

Prabhas and Pooja Hegde-starrer 'Radhe Shyam' gears up for its release, while Pooja's appearance alongside Vijay in the movie 'Beast' has raised much buzz as well. —IANS

Richa on the expectations show biz has towards actors

Actor Richa Chadha recently took to her social media handle to share an impactful video speaking of the expectations the show business has towards actors.

In the past too, the actor has spoken with candour about her struggles, about an eating disorder. She hinted in the video about gaining weight for 'Shakeela' and the film not turning out right. But highlighted that it's a part of the work she does much like any other performer. From someone who dislikes advice, it is unlikely that the actress will want to give others advice on how she lost 15 kgs in 3 months.

Sharing the video, Richa wrote, "Assuming that 'Love is the absence of judgement", we're most unloved by self. Happy Valentine's Day! Just wanna confuse the algorithm by posting something "out-of-syllabus"... was looking for depth, with utter disregard for likes and comments. Sometimes you just wanna talk, ya know ? Reframe what romance means to include self." She spoke of being in a happier place today, of being content with herself, her body, focusing on herself, and being "well and fit" instead of fitting into a cookie-cutter homogeneity.

Richa is known for her exceptional performances in content-driven films like 'Masaan', 'Gangs of Wasseypur' and 'Fukrey'. She will be resuming shooting for the next installment of 'Fukrey' soon. —ETimes

Shraddha is off for Luv's wedding

Shraddha Kapoor has been shooting non-stop for films and her brand commitments. However, the actress has taken time off from her professional life to attend filmmaker Luv Ranjan's wedding. The actress has been shooting for Luv Ranjan's next in Mumbai with Ranbir Kapoor, but will soon be heading to North India for the celebration. A source close to the actress revealed, "The next schedule of Luv Ranjan's film started in Mumbai recently and Shraddha has been shooting for some time. She has decided to take some time off, for two-three days, to attend the director's special occasion. Shraddha is excited about the wedding and didn't want to miss it."

Luv Ranjan, who has helmed films like 'Pyar Ka Punchnama' and 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety', will tie the knot with his long-time girlfriend on February 20. The pre-wedding festivities will reportedly begin from February 18. ETimes had reportedly that this close-knit wedding was scheduled for January 2022 but it was postponed due to the third wave.